

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

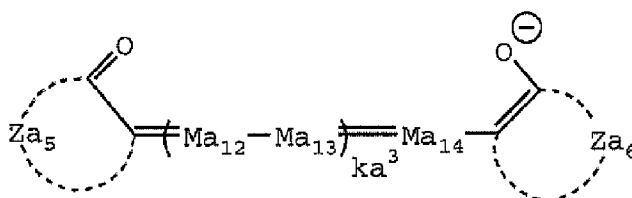
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

16. (previously presented) A method for inducing a non-resonant two-photon absorption, which comprises irradiating a non-resonant two-photon absorbing material comprising an oxonol dye undergoing a non-resonant two-photon absorption with a laser ray having a wavelength longer than the linear absorption band of the dye and present in the range of 400 to 1,000 nm to induce a two-photon absorption.

21. (currently amended): ~~The non-resonant two-photon absorbing material~~ The method as described in claim 16, wherein the oxonol dye is represented by the following formula (3):

Formula (3):



CIY

wherein  $Za_5$  and  $Za_6$  each represents an atomic group for forming a 5- or 6-membered ring,

$Ma_{12}$  to  $Ma_{14}$  each independently represents a methine group, which may have a substituent or may form a ring together with another methine group,

$ka^3$  represents an integer of 0 to 3, provided that when  $ka^3$  is 2 or more, multiple  $Ma_{12}s$  may be the same or different and multiple  $Ma_{13}s$  may be the same or different, CI represents an ion for neutralizing the electric charge, and y represents a number necessary for the neutralization of electric charge.